

February 13, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: Opposition of House Bill 481 (Transportation - Commercial Signs - Penalty)**

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, strongly opposes House Bill 481 (Transportation - Commercial Signs - Penalty).

This measure increases the maximum civil penalty for placing a commercial sign within the right-of-way of a State highway from \$25 to \$1,000. This is an exorbitant increase. Many of our members rely on posting signs in visible areas to advertise their businesses, like real estate agents, remodelers, and builders. They may not post a sign within the right-of-way of a State highway on purpose, and to significantly increase the fee from \$25 to \$1,000 is unfairly burdensome to small business owners who are simply trying to advertise their trade.

MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members